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'WOODY SEZ' THIS PLAY IS WORTH YOUR DO-RE-MI {page 15}

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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ WFNX fans TJ O'Brien, left, and Joe Botsch make their feelings known outside the WFNX/ Boston Phoenix building yesterday after hearing that Clear Channel had purchased the station.

Clear Channel kills the radio star: Buyout to silence WFNX

◗ Boston's long-standing alt-rock station to go off the air, pending FCC approval ◗ DJs already gone {page 02}

News

Speaker tries to woo Facebook

◗ House Speaker Bob DeLeo pens letter to Mark Zuckerberg ◗ Asks former Harvard student to bring biz to Boston {page 02}

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Clear Channel deal could mean end for Hub's alt-rock icon

Longtime radio personalities like Julie Kramer and Henry Santoro felt the brunt of the layoffs as WFNX entered the initial stages of being gobbled up by Clear Channel Communications yesterday.

According to a press release issued by the media giant, Clear Channel will be taking over the iconic Boston rock station, acquiring it from MCC Broadcasting Company, Inc., pending FCC approval.

MCC Broadcasting, and the station, 101.7 on the radio dial, are part of the Phoenix Media/Communications Group in Lynn, the same company that owns the Boston Phoenix newspaper. As of press time, it was unknown whether the Phoenix will be impacted by the sale.

As reports of the buyout surfaced yesterday, fans of the alt-rock station were outraged and rumors began to circulate that FNX could become a country channel.

"Mourning the death of WFNX ... [I] think I'm going to be ill," tweeted Rabbito Garcia.

Renowned deejay Julie Kramer, known for her "Leftover Lunch" program, was just one of the reported 17 layoffs that happened yesterday.

"This is like a death in the family, FNX has for generations been synonymous with new music, smart music and alternative culture," said Peter Kadzis, executive editor of the Phoenix Media/Communications Group.

Kadzis couldn't confirm rumors about what the station could become, but said Clear Channel is "not going to do modern rock."

"They are buying the signal and the physical presence, we have no idea what they are going to do," he said.

The radio station has been a staple in the Hub, bringing new music to listeners and remaining intact when others like WBCN faded away — until now, that is.

According to the press release, WFNX will remain on the air during the time it takes to complete the FCC approval process.

"This was a great opportunity to expand our footprint and our listenership in Boston, a key market with millions of fans who love radio as much as we do," said John Hogan, chairman and CEO of Clear Channel Media and Entertainment, in a statement. "We look forward to adding 101.7 to our Boston broadcasting family."

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ If the FCC approves the purchase, WFNX will be no more.

Ashes of time

FNX may be losing its old format, but it will always have decades worth of milestones to carry on its legacy.

- **1987** Jerry Seinfeld came to Massachusetts to do a show in Harvard Square but not before doing his first on-air appearance on FNX
- **1991** FNX became the first commercial radio station in the nation to play Nirvana and Pearl Jam.
- **1994** A famous concert on the Esplanade, featuring Green Day lasted about nine minutes, because the MDC pulled the plug on it.

New Skype service debuts in Boston

BOSTON. Comcast introduced a Skype video-calling service yesterday in Boston and Seattle, the start of a nationwide roll out.

The Skype on Xfinity feature lets customers hold high-definition video conferences over their televisions, Comcast said yesterday in a statement. The option will cost $9.95 a month for Triple Play users, which get Internet, television and voice service from the company. **REUTERS**

Man offers T cop a toke

BOSTON. An undercover transit police officer busted a passenger after the rider allegedly offered the officer a "toke" of his marijuana cigarette.

Undercover police were patrolling Andrew Square after reports of increased drug activity when the officer sat on a bench next to a Boston man, 27, who offered to share his pot with the cop.

The officer declined and the man was issued a $100 citation. **METRO**

Residents upset over tower plan

CAMBRIDGE. A 162-foot tower has been proposed for Central Square and has residents upset.

The residential tower proposed by Forest City Commercial Group will be built on Massachusetts Avenue near Sydney Street, the Globe reported.

The proposal also includes a life sciences building.

Residents are concerned about sight lines and shadows over parks, according to the Globe. **METRO**

In the news

$310K

A man accused of selling worthless vacation club memberships from businesses in Plymouth and Methuen was found in contempt of court and ordered to pay $310,000 in penalties, the attorney general's office said yesterday. Charles Caliri, of Vermont, violated court orders not to withdraw funds from bank accounts during his case. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Drunk red sox fans looking at old trolley car at Boylston 'is that the orange line?' #mbta"

@K_MARIEB OBSERVING A VERY CONFUSED, AND ALLEGEDLY INEBRIATED SPORTS FAN FOLLOWING THE SOX GAME ON TUESDAY NIGHT.

DeLeo pens loving letter to woo Facebook to Bay State

Robert DeLeo, speaker of the Massachusetts House, wrote a glowing letter about the Bay State to Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg in an attempt to woo the former Harvard student back east.

DeLeo's 659-word letter was posted on the Menlo Park Patch website yesterday. Facebook's headquarters is in Menlo Park, Calif., but the company was founded by Zuckerberg in his Harvard dorm room.

"I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on what you have missed in Massachusetts since you left in 2004," DeLeo wrote. "In recent years, Massachusetts has become a more desirable home to innovation companies and their workers."

DeLeo goes on to talk about the recent unveiling of an economic development bill aimed to stimulate the "talent pipeline." He also mentions the new development along Boston's waterfront and the Innovation District.

The letter comes a few months after Zuckerberg visited MIT in an attempt to recruit some workers for his company. Also last year, Zuckerberg told a crowd during a talk that if he were starting Facebook today he would stay in Boston.

DeLeo apparently hopes to nudge Zuckerberg back to the Hub.

"I am available to meet with you ... to update you on why Massachusetts is an important place to open an office." **MICHAEL NAUGHTON**

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Zuckerberg

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Copley Square trees cut

BOSTON. An infection inside some trees at Copley Square led to the plaza's new, desolate look.

About 20 dead or dying London planetrees were recently cut down because of a canker stain fungal infection, the city said.

Other trees in the park are not suffering from the disease.

Some of the remedies to be discussed with residents were the immediate replanting of 20 replacement trees and enhanced tree care to the remaining trees.

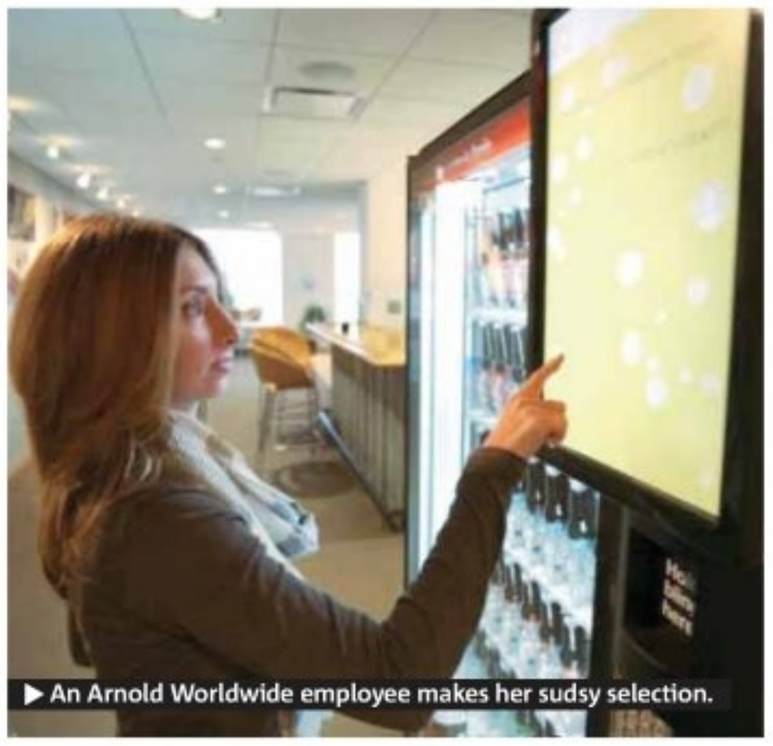
Boston Parks Commissioner Antonia Pollak said the removals are temporary but necessary for the park's health. METRO

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Copley is looking barren.

Vending machine in Hub sells beer

Special dispenser designed by workers Known as 'Arnie', it tweets and remembers employee preferences



▶ An Arnold Worldwide employee makes her sudsy selection.

While most offices in Boston may be lucky enough to have a vending machine that offers the occasional bag of Cheetos or possibly some stale trail mix, one advertising agency is slugging back beers dispensed during work hours.

At Arnold Worldwide's headquarters in the Hub, there is a machine known around the office as "Arnie," a dispensary that doles out bottles of brew at the touch of a computer screen.

Arnie was the brainchild of some of the company's technologists as part of their annual "Make Project," where the business encourages employees to come up with a creative idea.

According to their website, Arnold Worldwide funds the "Make Project" by setting aside $100,000 to encourage employees to "manage less and make more."

The "Make Project" is an initiative that spawned the creation of Arnie.

Anthony Stellato and a team of creative thinkers conjured up the beer-dispensing device and, needless to say, it has been a hit around the office.

"In one day we went from six test users to over 400," said Stellato, creative technologist at the R&D Lab at Arnold Worldwide.

There's even more

Arnie doesn't only spit out bottles of beer on demand.

- The vending machine tweets when lots of people gather to have a beer.
- If employees can't decide, Arnie comes equipped with an onboard "ale-pedia" with employee ratings and descriptions of each beer.
- Arnie is "able to recognize individual employees, chat with them, tweet, and of course, vend them a beer.

Stellato said Arnie serves as a social hub for employees, and sends out tweets when lots of people gather to have an afternoon break, or late-day beer.

"I think it definitely helps. We are such a large company with different departments, people don't get together to socialize so it increases communication and creativity as well," said Stellato.

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City launches plan to get ahead of summer violence

Police will deploy new anti-drug team in hot spots, starting with Southie ◐ Murders double over last year

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Mayor Thomas Menino announced his S.P.R.I.N.G. summer violence prevention program at Boston City Hall yesterday.

With the homicide rate in Boston already double what it was at this time last year, police and city leaders are trying to get ahead of the historic increase in violence that hits the Hub in the summer months.

The city's new violence prevention strategy, unveiled by Mayor Thomas Menino yesterday, includes the deployment of officers in a daytime drug control unit that will hit different areas of the city, the hiring of "violence interrupters" that will be sent to talk to youth in neighborhoods including Mattapan and an increase in summer jobs for teens.

Quoted

"Our plan is to make sure we have opportunities for the young people that live there to have a safe place to go at the hours when most of this violence occurs."

EMMETT FOLGERT, HEAD OF THE DORCHESTER YOUTH COLLABORATIVE

"We are working early," Menino said. "In reality, our summer strategy is a spring strategy. Every murder we prevent now means fewer in retaliation in the summer."

Typically the city experiences an increase in violence and murders during the summer months. As of Sunday, Boston's homicide rate already reached 16, compared with eight at this time last year.

The strategy also enlists the help of corrections officers to reach out to inmates before they are about to be released this summer.

Officials said that about one-third of the city's homicides are retaliatory.

What to expect

The city's plan to combat summer violence includes:

- Outreach workers in the Bowdoin and Geneva areas
- Summer jobs for 19-year-olds
- Detective walking beats
- Increase in neighborhood watch groups
- 34 new surveillance cameras in hot spots
- Gang member ceasefire conversations

Summer jobs are also a key part of the strategy and Menino said he will be asking businesses why they are not participating in the summer jobs program. He said that currently only 14 percent of private businesses with 100 or more employees participate in the program.

One of the main differences in the city's approach to summer violence this year is that leaders are making a very public and early start in their efforts. Menino said he hopes to have most of the programs and initiatives in place and ready to go by the time the public schools let out for the summer.

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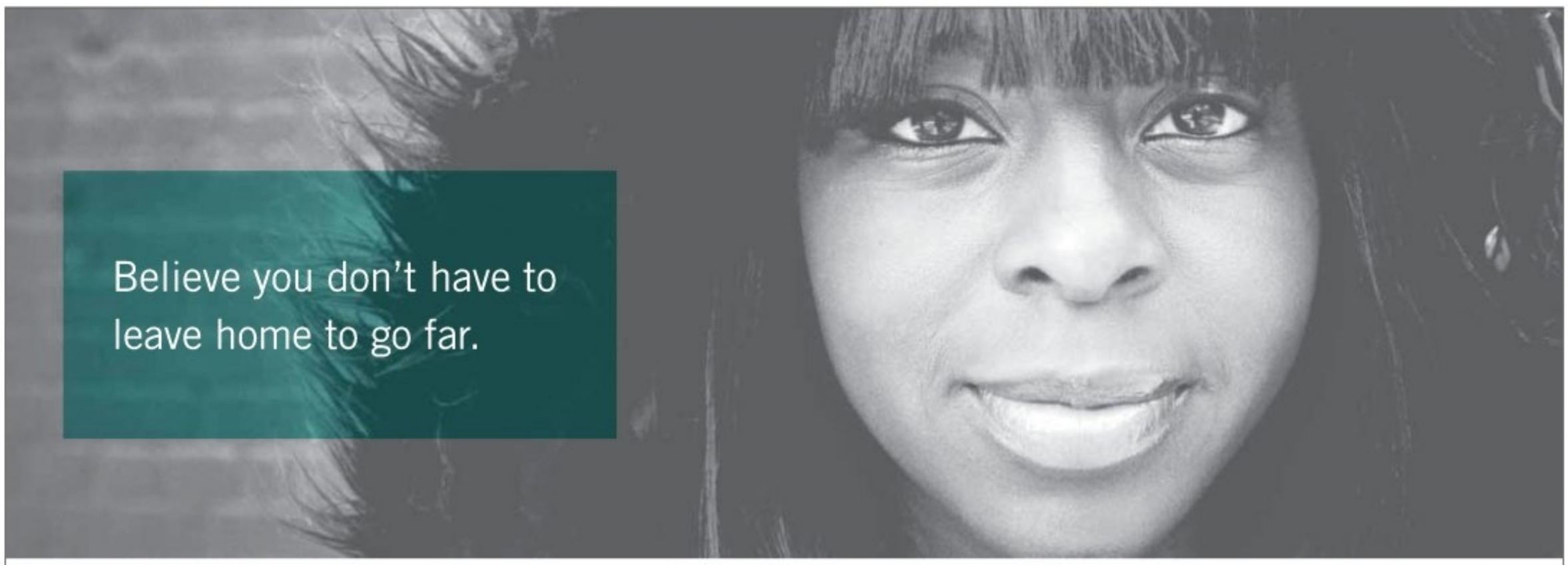

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Facebook IPO triggers retail investor craze

LEON NEAL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Facebook is going public after accumulating almost a billion users and nearly $4 billion in annual revenue.

If "Facebook For Dummies" helped you find friends and post pictures on the world's No. 1 online social network, then consider "Facebook IPO Confidential," which purports to teach you "How To Get Rich With The IPO Of The Century."

The e-book is one of about eight self-help manuals that appear to have sprung up overnight to try to capitalize on the frenzy surrounding Silicon Valley's biggest initial public offering.

With other titles such as "The Facebook IPO Pitch: Are You In?" and "How To Invest In Facebook," these books are far from best-sellers. But, along with countless online forums and news articles about the IPO, they underscore the desire of ordinary people — many of whom have never invested in stocks before — to get in on the $15.2 billion share sale.

$104B
Many wealth managers are advising their clients to avoid Facebook, pointing to a sky-high valuation of up to $104 billion set by the IPO, and potentially much higher once it starts trading.

"If you can't invent Facebook, the next best bragging rights would be to say that you had invested in the social media phenom when it was a dorm room project. If not then, perhaps the IPO," Nancy Miller wrote in a guide titled "The Facebook IPO Primer.'

New shareholders will have little influence, as nearly 56 percent of voting shares will be in the hands of one person, Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg. REUTERS

Facebook boosts IPO size by 25 percent, could top $16B

CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

Facebook increased the size of its initial public offering by almost 25 percent, and could raise as much as $16 billion as strong investor demand for a share of the No. 1 social network trumps debate about its long-term potential to make money.

Facebook, founded eight years ago by Mark Zuckerberg in a Harvard dorm room, said yesterday it will add about 84 million shares to its IPO, floating about 421 million shares in an offering expected to be priced today.

The additional shares will be sold by early investors including PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel, Accel Partners' James Breyer and investment manager Tiger Global Management, the company said in a filing.

The company itself has not increased the number of shares it will sell. REUTERS

Facebook's Saverin may save $67M on US tax bill

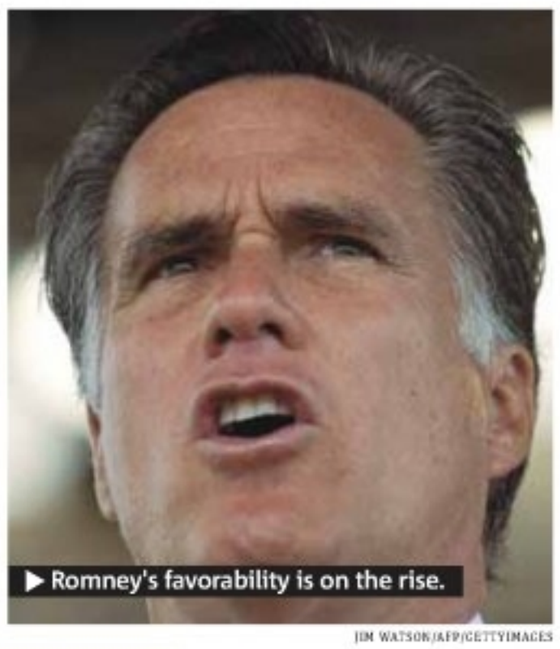
Facebook Inc. co-founder Eduardo Saverin will save at least $67 million in federal income taxes by dropping U.S. citizenship, according to a Bloomberg analysis of the company's stock price. Those savings will keep growing if Facebook's shares increase.

Saverin renounced his citizenship around September and he lives in Singapore, according to his spokesman, Tom Goodman. BLOOMBERG

Lack of support means long, negative summer

▶ Obama's re-election is uncertain.

SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Romney's favorability is on the rise.

JIM WATSON/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

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President Barack Obama and former Mass. Gov. Mitt Romney are currently working to sharpen the contrasts of their respective personalities, highlighting the differences among their fundamental beliefs and political styles. Romney attacked Obama over the economy on Tuesday, criticizing the president for lighting a "prairie fire of debt." Vice President Joe Biden called attention to what he called "Romney economics" yesterday, accusing the conservative candidate of wanting to help his rich buddies at the expense of working Americans.

Differences noted, the politicians do share at least one common thread, according to an ABC News-Washington Post poll released yesterday: Neither can claim majority support for their major platform goals.

Take Romney's proposal to lower individual income tax rates by 20 percent. This populist plan scored only 48 percent favorability, compared with 39 percent unfavorability. (Could it be because Romney's easy promise of tax reduction flies in the face of his party's clear goal of deficit reduction? "It's just not doable under any conceivable, realistic scenario," says Martin Sullivan, contributing editor at Virginia's Tax Analysts.)

"We're not going to shift the burden from middle-income people to higher-income people," Romney said in an April interview, drawing a distinction with Obama, who has campaigned on economic "fairness" by saying the rich should pay their "fair share." Yet taxpayers seem unconvinced.

Then there's Obama's health care reform law, but the fierce Republican opposition to it may be cleared up on its own in June if the Supreme Court finds its individual mandate unconstitutional. Regardless, according to the ABC-WaPo poll, support for political repeal of the law is even: Forty percent favor such action, and 40 percent oppose.

Interestingly, independents seem conflicted on the issue. Of these middle-ground voters, just 33 percent are in favor of Romney's promise to repeal and replace, while 47 percent rate it unfavorably.

A poll from last week showed Obama lagging below 50 percent on a bunch of his priorities: the auto bailout, financial regulation and stimulus spending. Still more polls have shown the Obama lead narrowing, or Romney overtaking him, as the bruising Republican primary fades from memory.

Ad buys tell the story of what's to come. The Obama team revealed a $25 million push in battleground states last week; as if in response, conservative group Crossroads GPS announced a $25 million buy of their own.

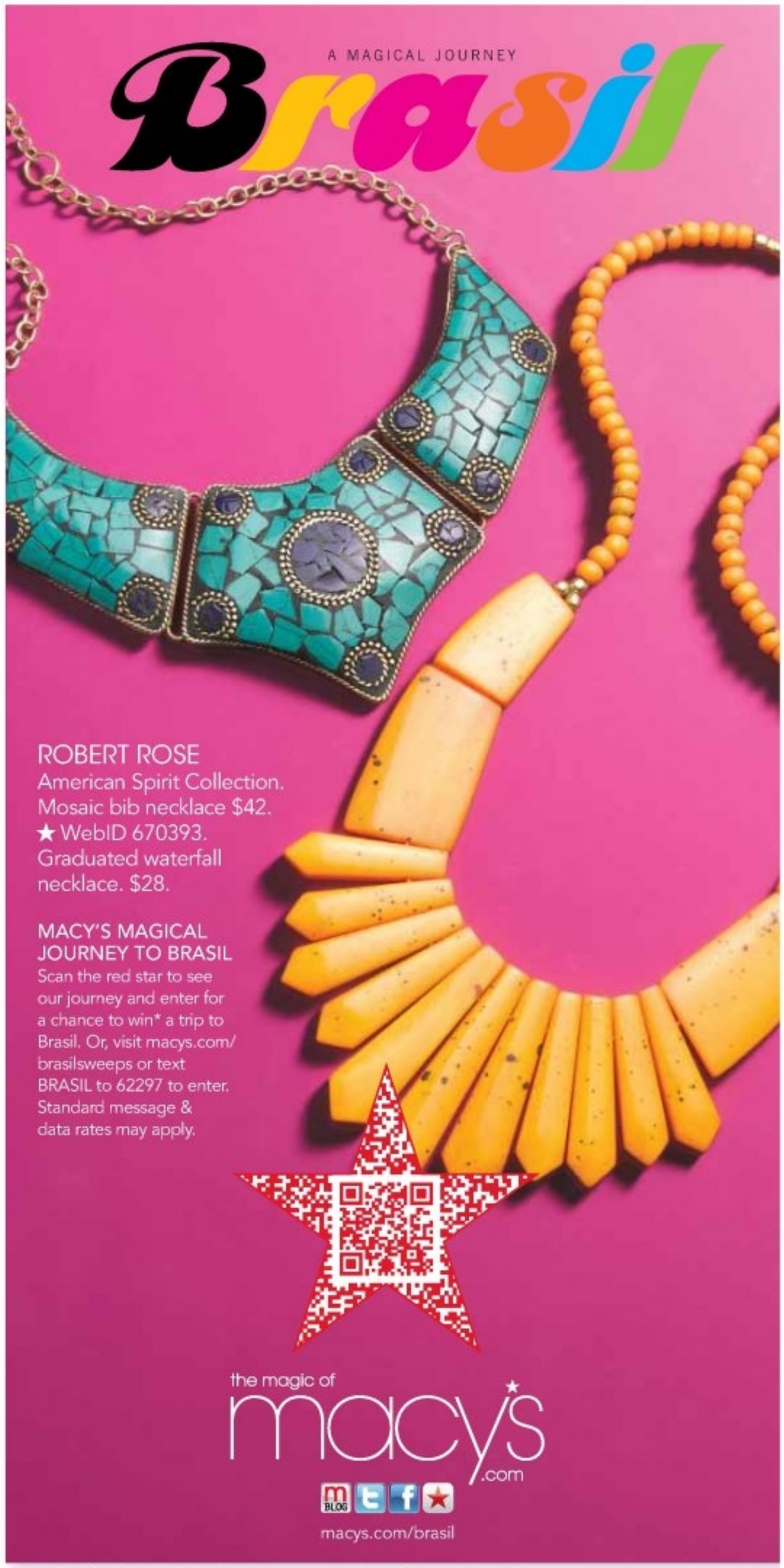
There are those who claim to know which candidate will win; they're wrong, they don't know a thing. Barring any surprises, the next president of the United States of America may well be decided by a multimillion-dollar barrage of negative ads.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

GET FED

Because sometimes you only have time to skim the headlines:

- "A Narrower Lead, but Big Changes Probably Aren't the Cause" **NYTIMES.COM**
- "Romney: It's Gotten 'Too Vicious' On Both Sides Of The Aisle" **BUZZFEED.COM**
- "Ron Paul sets up Rand for 2016 - Ron Paul" **SALON.COM**
- "Donors with big bank ties favor Romney, desert Obama" **THE BOSTON GLOBE**
- "Fake Obama Narrates Birther Lite Conspiracy Film 'Dreams From My Real Father'" **TALKINGPOINTSMEMO.COM**
- "President Obama executive order will give Treasury authority to freeze U.S.-based assets in Yemen" **WASHINGTON POST**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News in brief

Skechers to pay $50M over baseless toning-shoe ads

WASHINGTON. Skechers USA Inc. has agreed to pay $50 million to settle charges that it made unfounded claims when it advertised that its "toning shoes" would enable users to get stronger and lose weight.

The Federal Trade Commission said yesterday the shoe maker was deceptive in the marketing of its Shape-ups, Resistance Runner, Toners and Tone-ups shoes. The FTC will receive $40 million from Skechers and return most of it to consumers who bought the company's toning shoes.

Skechers will pay an additional $5 million to 43 states and the District of Columbia and another $5 million to class action attorneys, the Manhattan Beach, Calif., company said in a statement. **REUTERS**

Housing, industrial data point to steady growth

WASHINGTON. Groundbreaking for U.S. homes rebounded in April and factory activity gained momentum, suggesting a moderate pickup in economic growth early in the second quarter.

The reports yesterday were the latest in a series to dampen fears that the recovery in the world's largest economy was stagnating after tepid job growth last month.

The Commerce Department said housing starts increased 2.6 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 717,000 units. **REUTERS**

Sources: Apple readies iPhone with bigger screen

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Apple CEO Tim Cook takes the company forward.

Apple Inc. plans to use a larger screen on the next-generation iPhone and has begun to place orders for the new displays from suppliers in South Korea and Japan, people familiar with the situation said yesterday.

The new iPhone screens will measure 4 inches from corner to corner, one source said. That would represent a roughly 30 percent increase in viewing area, assuming Apple keeps other dimensions proportional. Apple has used a 3.5-inch screen since introducing the iPhone in 2007.

Early production of the new screens has begun at three suppliers: Korea's LG Display Co. Ltd., Sharp Corp. and Japan Display Inc., a Japanese government-brokered merger combining the screen production of three companies.

4

The new iPhone screens will measure 4 inches from corner to corner, one source said.

Apple's decision to equip the next iPhone with a larger screen represents part of a competitive response to Samsung's new Galaxy.

Samsung unveiled its top-of-the line Galaxy smartphone with a 4.8-inch touch screen and a faster processor earlier this month.

With consumers becoming more and more comfortable using smartphones for tasks they once performed on laptops, like watching video, other smartphone manufacturers have also moved toward bigger displays. **REUTERS**

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CRUISING FROM BOSTON THIS SUMMER

Ships' Registry: The Bahamas and Panama.

Carnival

THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Cyrus, forgive us

▶ Once abandoned, Happy is now living the good life with Miley Cyrus.

It seems we owe **Miley Cyrus** an apology. While we were rooting against her as rumors circled that she might land a spot at the "X Factor" judges table, she was busy being an adult with a real life and rescuing dogs.

Earlier this month, the starlet brought home Happy, a beagle mix who was left outside a Wal-Mart, and over the weekend she added a fifth rescue pup, Mary Jane, to her collection.

"Meet the newest addition to our family," Cyrus tweeted. "I love rescuing."

And apparently, Cyrus' dogs live — and sleep — pretty comfortably. "As all my dogs jumped on my face the first words out of my mouth this morning ... 'I am living my dream life,'" she tweeted later.

Miley, we have to admit, we seriously underestimated your idea of a dreamy morning with Mary Jane. Consider this your summer get-out-of-the-gossip-column-free pass — and tell your girl **Lindsay** about our limited-time deal.

Celebrities. Ke$ha

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

She's talkin' pedicures on her toes

We've grown to love our girl Ke$ha's straight-off-the-floor look, but it's nice to see she can clean up when she wants to. The singer stopped by the BMI Pop Awards in Beverly Hills on Tuesday night with clean hair, no trace of second-day glitter and a purse too small for her bottle of Jack.

J.Lo's a wanted woman

As reports swirl that **Jennifer Lopez** isn't interested in a third season of "American Idol," executive producer **Nigel Lythgoe** is hoping to win her over. "I know how much she loves doing the show and how much she cares for the kids," he tells TMZ. "We want her back. I want her back."

Nice start, Nigel, but you're going to have to do better — this lady is used to the grovel, and we suspect she enjoys it.

Smart move, Thornton

The way **Billy Bob Thornton** tells it, there's no hard feelings between him and ex-wife **Angelina Jolie**.

"We had a great marriage, and I chickened out because I didn't feel good enough," the actor admitted on an interview with "Nightline" that aired last night. "That's all that happened. It was no big deal, we never hated each other."

If Jolie still had a vial of our blood, we'd say the same thing.

Talking points

Tom Cruise is cool with Tom Cruise

Tom Cruise has gotten over his couch-jumping period, but he's not mad at other people for dwelling on his past moments of erratic behavior. "Do I make mistakes? Yeah. I don't care who you are, life has challenges," Cruise tells Playboy magazine. "I remember as a kid I wanted an adventurous life, and I've gotten it. So if someone judges me harshly, it's OK."

John Mayer finally got the message

John Mayer wants everyone to know he's done a lot of growing up in his two years out of the spotlight. "I lost my head for a little while. I lost touch, and I didn't want to ask for directions," Mayer tells **Ellen DeGeneres** during a visit to her talk show. "I did a couple really dumb interviews and it woke me up." The singer, who famously shot his mouth off about famous ex-girlfriends and racial issues, insists he's calmed down during his time off. "I think back then I would have said, 'Give me two weeks' or like, 'Let me get out and do "Ellen" and let me explain myself,'" Mayer says. "It was like no, idiot. Go away."

Lawsuits not over for Travolta

Although the first man to accuse **John Travolta** of sexual battery dropped his lawsuit, he's since hired another attorney, and it's none other than **Gloria Allred**. "Mr. Doe's lawsuit was dismissed without prejudice, which means that he is still legally entitled to file another lawsuit against John Travolta if he chooses. We are in the process of conferring with him regarding the next steps, which he may wish to take," Allred said in a statement.

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Dax Shepard is drinking alone, Lady Gaga is having a Twitter fail, Kristen Bell needs a dictionary and Nathan Fillion can't win.

@daxshepard1: I can't relate to people in their 20's with pets. I was way too selfish for that business. Dogs weren't allowed in bars back then.

@ladygaga: I'm obviously having a rough time tweeting today

@IMKristenBell: when did we change "Imput" to "Input"?? Wait....has it ALWAYS been "input"??!!

@NathanFillion: Jennifer Beals is crushing me in Wurdle. And not in a small way. More so a "Fetal in the corner" way.

Shepard and Bell

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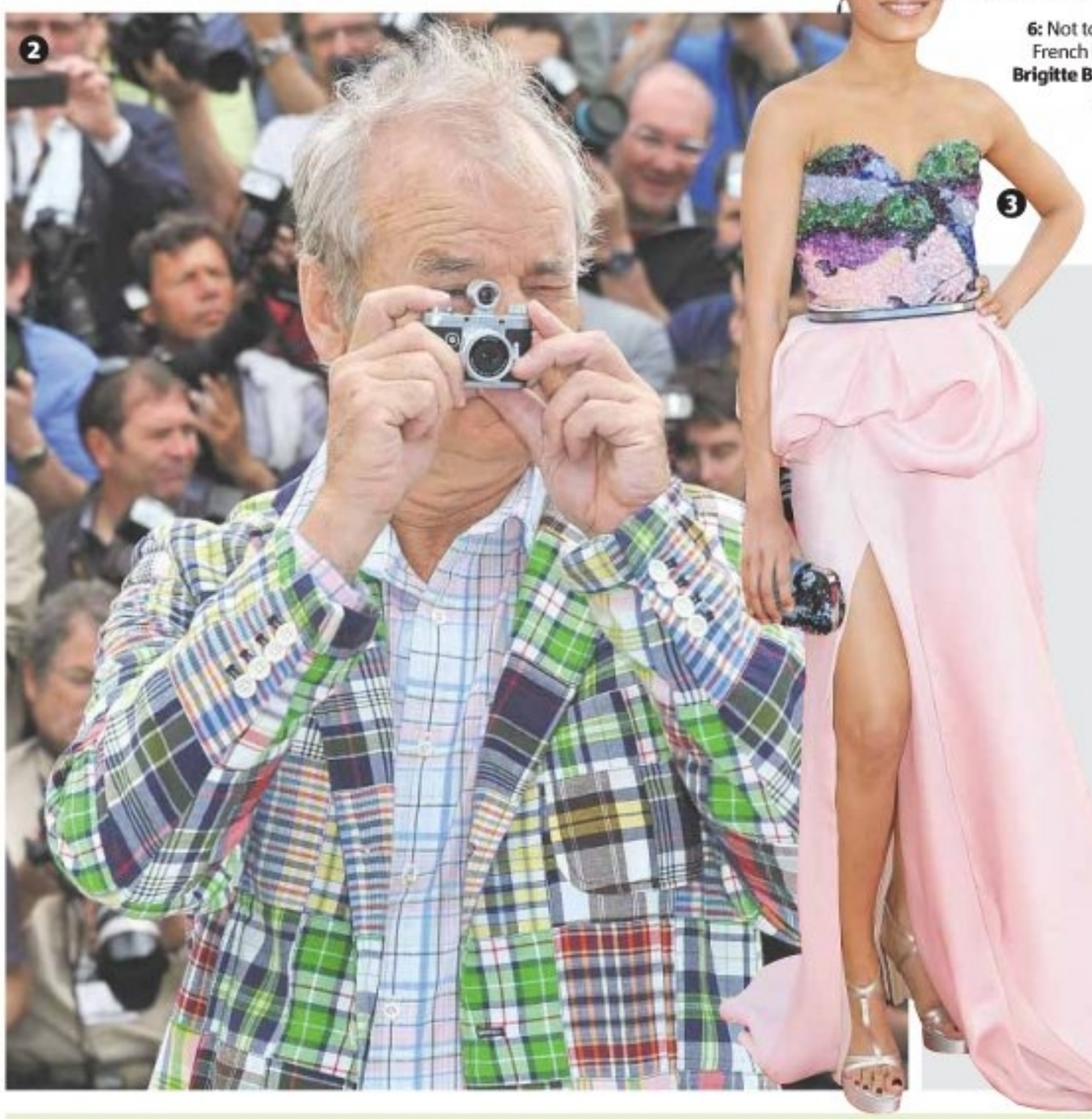
The stars are out at Cannes

1: It's that time of year again: The beautiful people are descending on the French Riviera for the Cannes Film Festival. Yesterday, fashion designer **Jean-Paul Gaultier, Diane Kruger and Ewan McGregor** were posing pretty.



2: **Bill Murray** snapped some photos of his own.

3: Freida Pinto's playful gown is at the top of our red carpet give-it-here list.

4: Not one for playing it straight on the red carpet, **Sacha Baron Cohen** created his own Cannes photo op for "The Dictator" with model Elisabetta Canalis.

5: Cannes flashback: Beach baby **Sophia Loren** glammed it up on the sand in 1955.

6: Not to be outdone, French bombshell **Brigitte Bardot** stole the show in 1956.

1: PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN/GETTY IMAGES
2: ANDREW H. WALKER/GETTY IMAGES
3,4: GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES
5: HULTON ARCHIVE
6: RDA/HULTON ARCHIVE

Prada

Nina Ricci

Dolce & Gabbana

Dree Hemingway in Dolce & Gabbana.

Rihanna in a navy and camel striped crop top with navy skirt.

Selena Gomez in Dolce & Gabbana.

BARE YOUR BELLY

Time to start on those crunches — and not just for the beach The spring runways were full of exposed midriffs How to pull them off

Tip

You don't have to expose your entire stomach area or be a model with perfectly sculpted abs to rock this trend. The real girl way to pulling off one of these tops is to pair them with a high waist. That way you're just revealing a hint of skin for a look that's sophisticated and playful.

Get the look

- **1. Mara Hoffman embroidered bustier top, $207,** www.marahoffman.com
- **2. Guess 30th Anniversary Capsule Collection Claudia Corset, $98,** www.guess.com
- **3. Top Shop neoprene crop bralet, $32,** www.topshop.com
- **4. H&M bustier, $25,** www.hm.com

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

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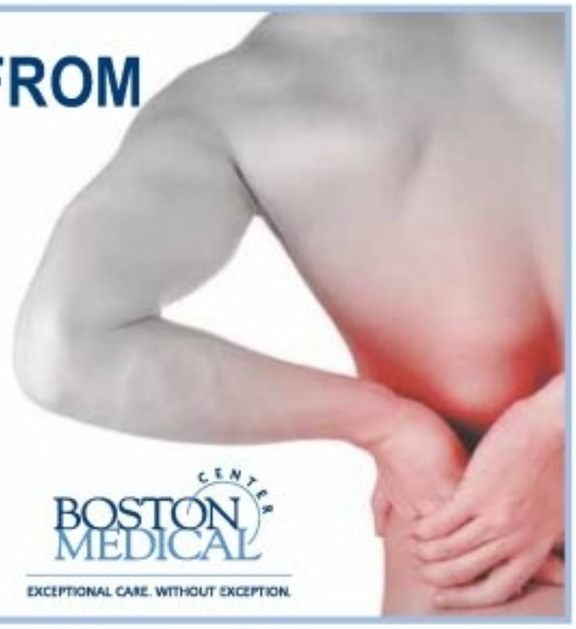

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mystyle

SPORTY STYLE

Sports apparel has shaken off the social stigma Now's the time to limber up for summer in this season's most chilled-out trend

The Olympic buzz clearly got designers thinking about how they could ramp up the sportswear cool factor for spring/summer '12. Of course, the ultimate spectacle would be seeing athletes competing in the shimmering looks of Givenchy and honored with Vivienne Westwood's Grecian laurel wreath. But alas, that's not the case. However, there are a number of designs that vault the divide between fashionable whimsy and trackside readiness. Take for instance, the diffusion line Kidda, by the emerging menswear designer Christopher Shannon, which is both progressive and practical — a rare thing, indeed.

We take a look at the pieces that'll work as part of a pared-down sporty wardrobe.

RICHARD PECKETT
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Christopher Shannon
KIDDA paisley tank, $84,
www.asos.com

Christopher Shannon
tasseled shorts, $254,
www.oki-ni.com

Topman letterman
sweatshirt, $55,
www.topman.com

Lanvin
sweatpants, $495,
www.mrporter.com

Acne Wesley
top, $160,
www.acnestudios.com

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This play is your play

Don't be intimidated by the prospect of 90 minutes of Woody Guthrie ◗ 'Woody Sez' is a toe-tappin' good way to enjoy the repertoire of a legendary folkie

TODD OLDHAM/ARTS THEATRE, LONDON

▶ From left, Teirstein, Deaville, Russell and Lutken take care to play how "Woody Sez."

You wouldn't be alone if you rolled your eyes at the prospect of an hour-and-a-half musical that celebrates American folk legend Woody Guthrie. But you would be a fool to let any uninformed preconceptions keep you from the engaging "Woody Sez," currently at the A.R.T.

Though Guthrie's music is the centerpiece of "Woody," the show's narrative keeps it from feeling like a musical revue. Each of the 30-plus songs adds a new layer to the story, giving the audience an almost palpable sense of what life was like for the common Midwestern man during the Great Depression.

David M. Lutken attempts to capture Guthrie's essence with his Southern drawl and charming storytelling ability. At times, however, Woody feels more like Will Rogers than the drifting musician/activist wandering through life searching for hope among the seemingly endless tragedies that shaped him.

Once Lutken and company begin making music, any theatrical shortcoming is forgotten. Even if you're not a fan, you'll find yourself tapping your feet, singing along and wanting to share the joyful moment with your neighbors.

The power of music to heal and provide hope fills the room as people sing at the "Jolly Banker," tell the tale of the "Sinking of the Reuben James," and, of course, joyfully proclaim "This Land Is Your Land."

Even if you have no interest in Woodie Guthrie, the extraordinary musicianship on display in this production is reason enough to see it. Lutken, Darcie Deaville, Helen Jean Russell and Andy Teirstein make music that will touch your soul with everything from a guitar to a set of spoons. And they do it with awe-inspiring joy.

NICK DUSSAULT
nick.dussault@metro.us

If you go

'Woody Sez'
Through May 26
American Repertory Theater
64 Brattle St., Cambridge
$25-$75, 617-547-8300
www.americanrepertorytheater.org

Join in on the hootenanny

Every Thursday night, the cast of "Woody Sez" will lead hootenannies after the performance. All are invited to bring their own instruments and play along, sing or just sit and enjoy the music. Other post-show hootenannies are scheduled at select performances.

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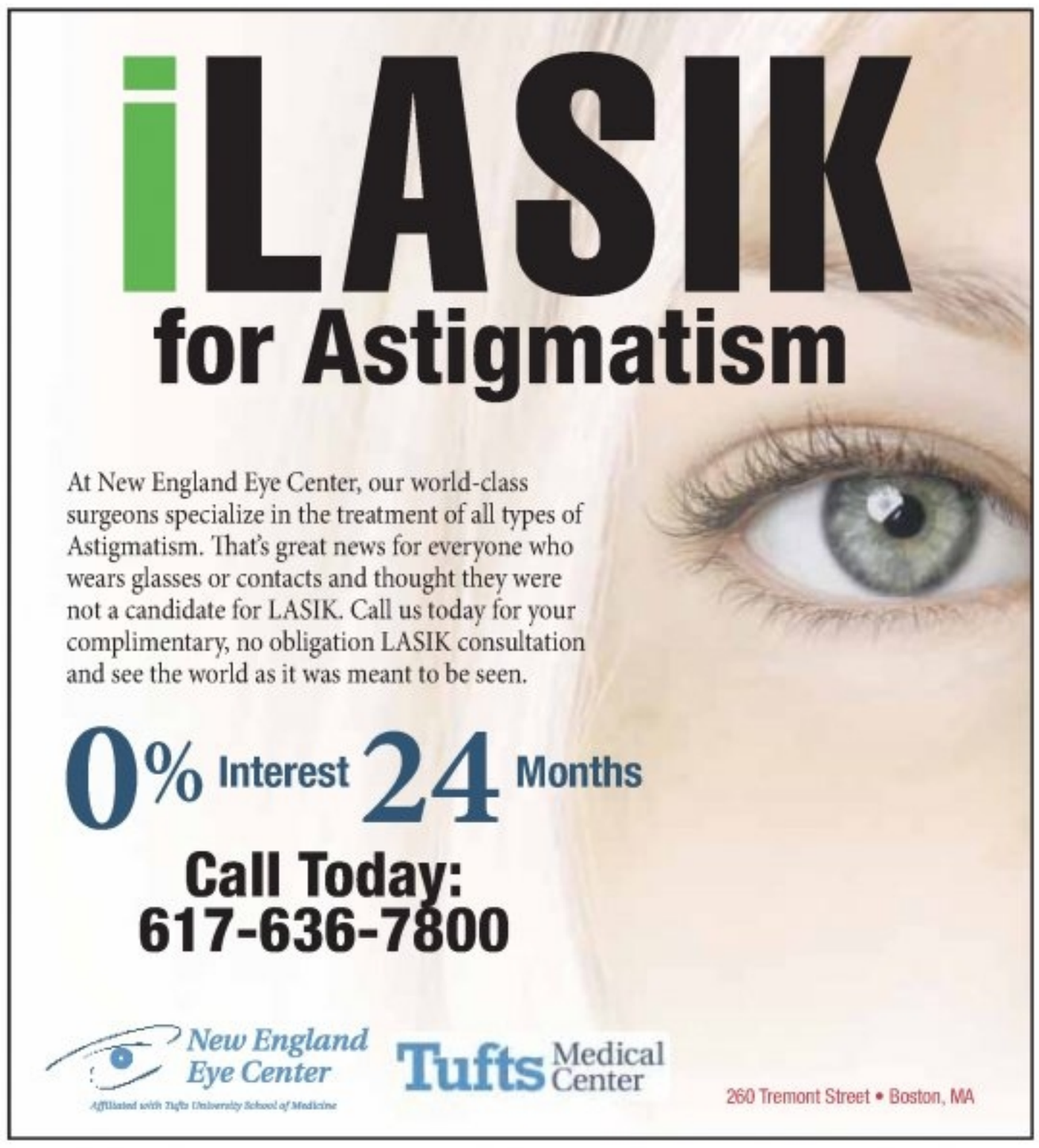
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myentertainment

10 Reasons to hit the movies this weekend

Must-see

1 'The Dictator' Sacha Baron Cohen brings another hilariously off-color character to the screen with an almost-too-timely film about the juvenile leader of the African nation of Wadiya, who finds himself replaced by a double during a coup in New York City.

2 'Battleship' In this adaptation of the board game, aliens invade from the sea. And if that doesn't float your boat, there's always Rihanna, Taylor Kitsch, Alexander Skarsgard and Brooklyn Decker to stare at.

3 'What to Expect When You're Expecting' Based on the how-to book of the same name, this comedy is packed with marquee names: Jennifer Lopez, Cameron Diaz, Elizabeth Banks, Matthew Morrison and Brooklyn Decker, again.

4 'Dark Shadows' Tim Burton reimagines the 1960s soap opera in which a vampire from the 1700s awakens in 1972. He seeks out his dysfunctional relatives to restore his recently diminished family name in the small town of Collinsport, Maine.

5 'The Avengers' Sci-fi master-in-chief Joss Whedon directs a bevy of big stars as seven Marvel heroes join forces to conquer the evil Loki.

6 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' Retirees travel to Jaipur, India, to live out their golden years.

MELINDA SUE GORDON

▶ Admiral General Aladeen (Sacha Baron Cohen) descends on New York City with his entourage in "The Dictator."

7 'The Five-Year Engagement' Jason Segel and Emily Blunt dodge obstacles en route to getting hitched.

8 'Safe' Jason Statham stars as an ex-cage fighter attempting to save a girl from the Russian mob.

9 'The Raven' John Cusack is Edgar Allan Poe on the trail of a serial killer who designs his murders after the author's stories.

10 'The Pirates! Band of Misfits' The makers of "Chicken Run" deliver a pirating adventure voiced by Hugh Grant and Salma Hayek. HEIDI PATALANO

TV watch list

'Community'

COMEDY. NBC burns off three episodes of the cult comedy to end Season 3. At 8 p.m., the study group makes a high-stakes (video game) play to aid Pierce in receiving his inheritance. Then at 9, the group attempts to wrestle control of Greendale from Chang, who has taken over the campus with "The Dictator"-like flair. Finally at 9:30, Jeff faces off against an old law firm foe when Shirley and Pierce go to "Greendale Summer Fun Court" over a disagreement about their sandwich shop.
Season finale, 8 p.m., NBC

'Grey's Anatomy'

DRAMA. Yes, yes, this melodrama takes place in a hospital. But does every season finale really have to be about the doctors finding themselves in a life-threatening situation?
Season finale, 9 p.m., ABC

'Person of Interest'

DRAMA. The name of a psychologist with a high-powered clientele pops up, but maybe Finch and Reese should be more concerned with the state of The Machine, considering the finale is titled "Firewall."
Season finale, 9 p.m., CBS

'Scandal'

DRAMA. Scandal hits home when Quinn finds herself in a compromising position.
Season finale, 10 p.m., ABC
AMBER RAY

LEWIS JACOBS/NBC

▶ Is that Evil Abed (Danny Pudi)? What time line is "Community" stuck in?!

TAG
theater & arts guide

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MUSIC

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Alzheimer's Research Study

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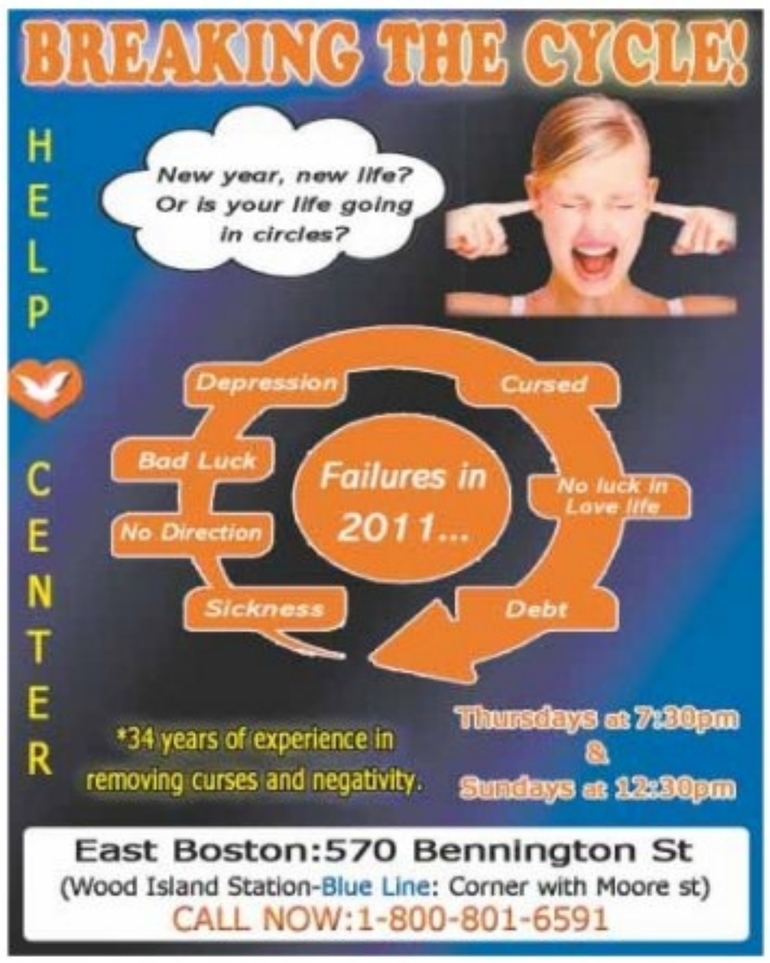

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Before going on a prospective date, it wouldn't hurt to check out his or her Twitter feed first

TWEETING = SEX

In early May 2012, Kanye West's fans learned which clothing styles he hated — whether they cared or not. The award-winning rapper shared on Twitter his opinions on the outfits he saw around New York.

"I hate button up shirts with hoodies," West tweeted.

"I hate hoodies with sports coats," he added.

"I hate sports coats with button up shirts, jeans and dress shoes," he stated.

This isn't the first time West has let people know exactly what he was thinking, including the day when he provided, in excruciating detail, his decision to buy a bike.

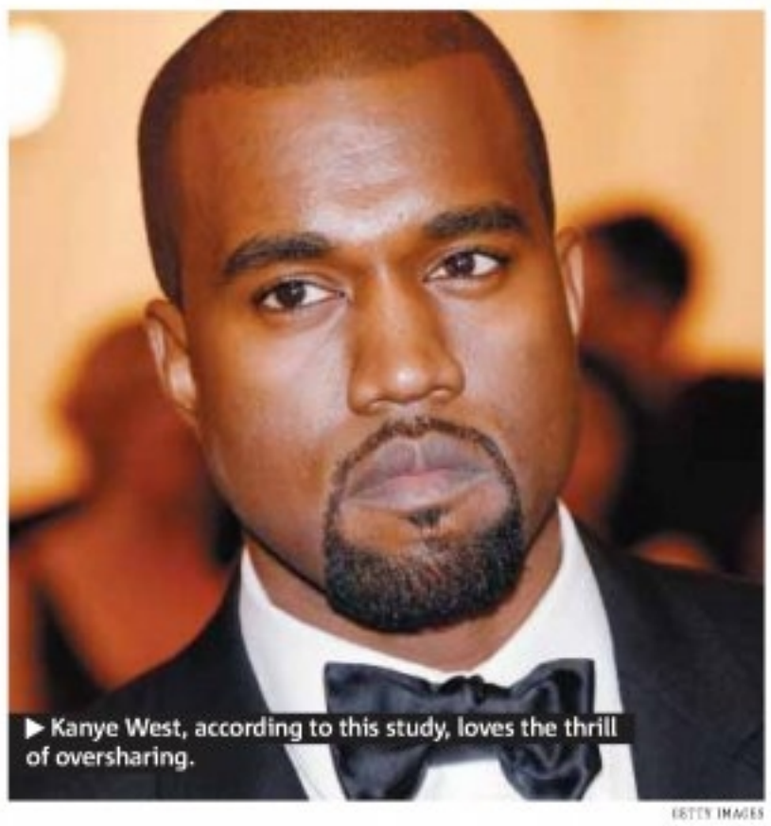
West's and other celebrities' propensity to share intimate details of their personal lives online might be rooted in science. A new study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences shows that people who talk about themselves had similar brain reactions to those who engaged in eating or sex. People were even willing to give up money in order to keep talking about themselves.

In other words: Boasting about our everyday lives gives us as much pleasure as doing "primary awards" or basic needs activities.

"The thousands and thousands of responses, the degree of intensity to that person, it must be very confirming of their importance. It pushes people to want to get that kind of feedback and notoriety," Dr. Phil Muskin, chief of consultation-liaison psychiatry at Columbia Psychiatry in New York, told Metro World News.

Dr. David Rubin, a psychiatrist at NY-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and Columbia believes it's not just a new media problem that makes it seem that celebrities — and many of us — share too much of themselves online.

Even in our day-to-day lives, we are aware of people who overshare information about themselves. Twitter, Facebook and blogs are simply a new medium to do it in — and it's much easier since you don't have to do it face-to-face. According to the PNAS study, four out of five postings on social media sites are about a person's immediate experiences.



▶ Kanye West, according to this study, loves the thrill of oversharing.

GETTY IMAGES

MICHELLE CASTILLO
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Freedom from restraint

"It gives people freedom from the restraints of social etiquette, professionalism and the freedom from reactions, letting them divulge more," Rubin said. "[Fans] can play the role of the friend. ... People are gathered together to read the mundane aspects of one of their 'friend's' lives. It takes it up a notch and creates some pseudo-connection."

"It also helps that by tweeting a statement, there's no immediate negative feedback. That doesn't mean one doesn't eventually have to face consequences. But, because there's no instantaneous chastisement for posting something that isn't politically correct, the poster feels like anything they feel like saying they should say," Muskin said.

So, those of us who tweet about ourselves don't necessarily have big egos. They may just enjoy the simple pleasures of life more than most of us.

Are you a male 26 years old or older?
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Carnival

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The Celiac Center at BIDMC is investigating new treatments and tests for celiac disease.

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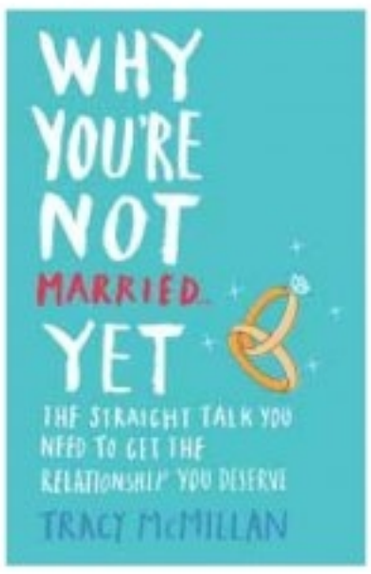
(617) 667-8397
celiac@bidmc.harvard.edu

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



Why you're not married

Author Tracy McMillan has no problem telling you why you haven't settled down yet Guess what? It's not the men, it's you How to right your wrongs

Hey ladies, want to know why you can't seem to find a long-term relationship? Tracy McMillan has some choice words for you. She says it's either because you're a b—, a slut, a mess, a liar, selfish, not good enough, crazy, shallow or godless.

But before you get up in arms over these accusations, know that what she means isn't as harsh as those pronouncements sound. For example, by saying "you're not good enough" McMilllian explains that it's a woman's negative attitude about herself that allows her to accept poor treatment from men. She adds that, "A lot of people go looking for in a partner something that they don't even realize that they believe is missing in themselves."

But the extreme nature of the bullet points of McMillan's message did make her original Huffington Post essay, "Why You're Not Married" set the record number of page views for the site since it was posted in February 2011. McMillan's straight talk about how women can sabotage their own relationships is the kind of sage wisdom most dating books avoid.

"Finding someone that you are going to love one day at a time for the rest of your life isn't something you can hunt down and kill," McMillan says. "You need to operate in the part that's kind of beyond what you can control. What that means to me is that he may not look like what he's supposed to look like or have the job you think he's supposed to have. What you need could be very different from what you think you want, and I feel like a lot of dating advice books don't speak to that."

McMillan explains that love is work — "the ultimate yoga" — and that it's about examining our own behaviors before blaming the dating market.

"It's not easy to love another person because we're all really flawed, but I think if you can learn how to love yourself with your own flaws and work at making yourself better. You can also love another person and create a space for them to make themselves better," she says.

ALISON DYER

▶ Author and television writer Tracy McMillan tells it like it is.

Where does McMillan get all this great advice from? Being married three times. She freely admits that she's made every mistake in the book, but all that experience has sharpened her sensibilities when it comes to dating.

"Oftentimes I'll be talking to someone who wants to be in a long-term relationship but can't figure out why she doesn't have one. And I can see it," she says. "It's because she seems angry or she's not nice or because she's dating guys who aren't willing to be in a relationship with her. I know a handful of women who can have casual sex, but that's a handful. The rest of us, we're so hung up on that guy six months later."

Buy the book

▶ **"Why You're Not Married ... Yet"** will be released on May 29th. Reserve a copy now!

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

Thinking about Weight Loss Surgery?

Join Us for a Free Information Session

From left: Dr. David Lautz, Dr. Ashley Vernon, Dr. Malcolm Robinson, Dr. Scott Shikora, Dr. Jooyeun Chung, and Dr. Ali Tavakkoli

If you are thinking about weight loss surgery and have questions, come to a free information session provided by the Center for Metabolic Health and Bariatric Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Faulkner Hospital. Our experienced team will discuss weight loss surgery options, the latest surgical treatments and dietary support, and will answer questions on costs and insurance.

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Reader love notes

Send us your love notes

E-mail **lovenotes@metro.us** with your special message.

Please keep it to about 140 characters. We'll print it in next week's dating section for free!

▶ *BooBoo, Happy one year anniversary of living together in our own place. I can't wait to wake up next to you everyday for the rest of my life. I love you forever and ever. Love, PoohBear XOXO*

▶ ***Materva, my history professor, Cuban slang connoisseur, my Love. I love how far we've come and I can't wait to grow old with you. Parachute, Nena.***

▶ *To my wife beautiful Teresa, I thank God every day for bringing you into my life and filling my heart and soul with your love. I adore you, Rafael.*

Letters

letters@metro.us

On the US deficit: Party politics rule

RE: "DEFICIT DISTORTIONS AT HEART OF GOP AGENDA": Brayden Simms was right on target today. Romney and Paul Ryan moan about the debt, but propose budgets with large tax cuts and no additional income, just mysterious "cuts." Boehner is trying to ride the Tea Party and so is forcing another debt limit debacle. The RNC with its foolish head Reince Priebus attack Obama for trying to save the economy that the Republicans broke. And I mean broke! Besides the $5 trillion W. Bush rang up, he left another $1-trillion-plus as a gift to the new president.
KEVIN DOWD, VIA E-MAIL

It was good to read Brayden Simms' column today since he just came right out and said it in plain English. To quote just a sentence or two that sum it up: "Republicans distort facts to destroy the Obama presidency"; and "Our current debt burden can be directly traced back to George W. Bush." That's it. You can't go to war, maintain a big country's infrastructure and keep the social contract but also cut your big donors' taxes, both individual and corporate. **PAUL SIMONS, VIA E-MAIL**

Sorry, Mr. Simms, but you can't refute history. This year President Obama raised the debt ceiling another $1.2 trillion. When Obama was inaugurated on Jan. 20, 2009, our national debt stood at $10.6 trillion. Under Obama, the national debt has increased $6.6 trillion to date. It took former President Bush eight years to increase the national debt by $4.8 trillion. Under Obama our national debt stands at $16.4 trillion. Obama has the dubious distinction of raising our national debt by $5.6 trillion. Americans are fearful of what could take place under a lame-duck Obama second term and are looking for an alternative.
LARRY PENNER, VIA E-MAIL

Equality challenege among persecuted

RE: "AS US HISTORY TURNS, CONSENSUS A DREAM": Some people need refresher courses in history. Homosexuals have been persecuted since the beginning of "civilized" society. Homosexuals died in Nazi concentration camps. Homosexuals die terrible, violent deaths every year, in every country. Have we really so little compassion for our fellow men and women that we can say "My suffering is worse than your suffering?" The selfish, hateful attitudes displayed in these letters have been heartbreaking.
KAREN ABRAMS, ARLINGTON

Remember, the Golden Rule does not end with "except people you don't like."
TIM MALLOY, DORCHESTER

May the blacks who are in opposition of gay marriage be reminded that the Bible was also used in justifying their very enslavement.
MARK HARDISON, VIA E-MAIL

Until you can show empathy, you are the hated becoming the hater. **MIKE LONG, VIA E-MAIL**

It is selfish and hypocritical to want people to recognize one group's struggles and not the others. **STEVEN JAMES, VIA E-MAIL**

Black people such as myself do not have the monopoly on being an oppressed minority.
LYNN GIBSON, ROCKLAND

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Resign yourself to the fact that everything you want to do currently is likely to take the maximum effort in order to get even minimal results. Fortunately, you have the patience required.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't get caught off-guard and allow yourself to get tapped for a task involving a club or social organization that everyone else has artfully avoided, with good reason.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Unfortunately, you may be inclined to use tactics that could end up defeating your own purposes. If you insist on tripping over your own feet, nothing will get accomplished.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** If at all possible, avoid a friend who is frequently afflicted with biased viewpoints that rub you the wrong way. You aren't likely to have the necessary tolerance.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** It's one of those days when everything will be out of proportion, including poor behavior. Don't hesitate to refuse someone who is always borrowing this or that.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** One of the major reasons you are not likely to get much cooperation from companions might be that you're too insistent about everything being done your way.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Perhaps the only way to get past you ignoring sensible health-habits today is to make yourself see what this kind of behavior is doing to others. If you look, you won't like what you see.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** If you see something disturbing brewing between two friends, try to steer clear. You won't want to be forced into choosing a side.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Do your best to help resolve a domestic altercation that arises between two warring family members as quickly as possible. If it can't be settled, the chill will linger.

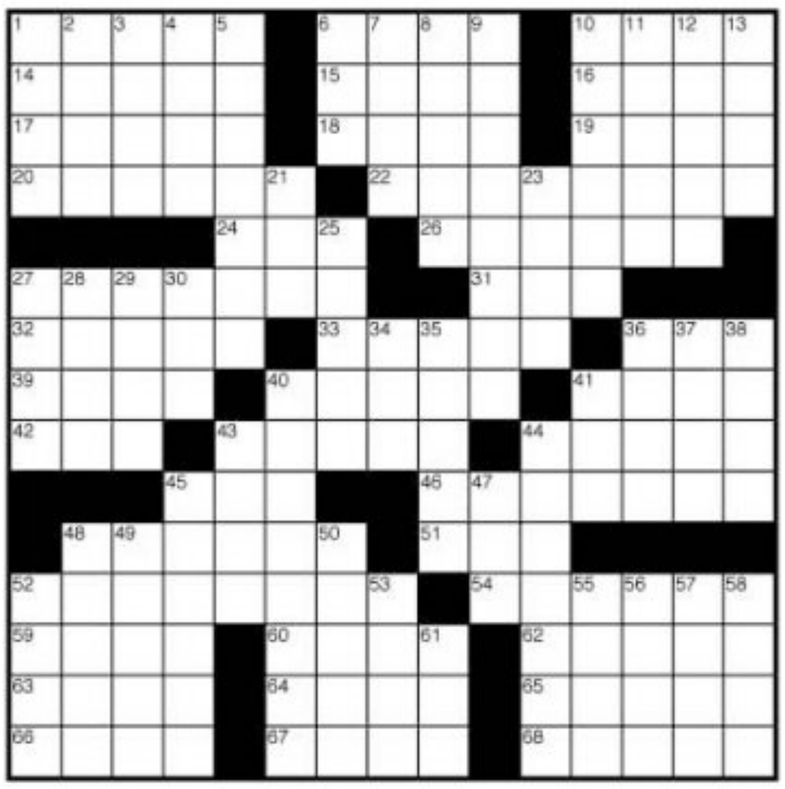
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Don't be so self-involved that you fail to hear the suggestions of those who have your best interests at heart. If you get too wrapped up in your own ideas, you'll miss out.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** It behooves you to be extremely prudent in the management of your funds. Be particularly careful about making a personal loan to anybody, especially a close relative.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** If it seems like everything is going against you at this moment in time, you must keep your cool if you're to have any hope of making things come out your way. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Packs
6 Orangutans
10 Random House co-founder
14 Glorify
15 Make coffee
16 Icy precipitation
17 Giggle (hyph.)
18 Vaccines
19 Reasoner's word
20 Concur
22 Boss's good-bye (2 wds.)
24 Dernier __
26 Polished, as text
27 Power source
31 "__ up to you!"
32 Opponent
33 Beyond's partner
36 Throw slowly
39 Bond's alma mater
40 Slack-jawed
41 Flashy dresser
42 Swerve off course
43 Distinct
44 Monsieur, in Madrid
45 Cowpoke's sweetie
46 Nature toy (2 wds.)
48 Compelled
51 Half of a Heston role
52 Baggage checker
54 Honey source
59 Arroyo
60 Not wasted
62 Pantyhose hue
63 Click-on item
64 Livy's route
65 Walked stealthily
66 Gamelan instrument
67 Makes inquiry
68 What some marry in

Down
1 "___ grip!"
2 Logging tools
3 Nopes
4 Delight
5 Lettering guide
6 "__ of Steel"
7 Warm up
8 Uncanny
9 Pool feat (2 wds.)
10 Jewelry boxes
11 Bogart in "High Sierra"
12 Unbending
13 Turkey
21 Robert Morse role
23 Wind catcher
25 Public persona
27 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
28 Poet __ Dove
29 Disclose
30 A Bobbsey twin
34 Bleat
35 Ms. Winfrey
36 Centurion's moon
37 Nose stimulus
38 Road shoulder
40 Handel's chorus
41 Dict. entry
43 Underground chamber
44 Kind of limo
45 Open-hearted
47 Sister
48 Ursa Major neighbor
49 Inert gas
50 Snug retreats
52 Branch
53 Awful smell
55 Dear, in Italy
56 Wk. day
57 Client mtg.
58 Plexus
61 AMA members



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		8		4		5		
			8		7			4
	6	7	3		4	1	8	
					9			
5	3	1		2				

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

		2		8		3		
			2		3		1	
9					7	2	8	
4			9			5	3	
8								1
	2	5			1			7
	8	6	5					3
	1		3		2			
		9		6		7		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Solution to yesterday's crossword

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restaurants

Common Ground moves up to a higher ground

At least as far as their food goes, but their casual atmosphere is just as laid back as it's always been Go for the brunch, come back for the drinks

Try this

Any time of day

The night before? The Allston Tea Party (Absolut Boston, Firefly Sweet Tea Vodka, ginger ale top-off). The morning after? Weekend brunch buffet featuring unlimited eggs, turkey bacon, house-made pork sausage, hash browns, freshly baked muffins and more. Saturday, $5.99, Sunday $7.99. A la carte options available too. Dinner entrees range from $9 to $13.

Nosh On

LINDA LABAN

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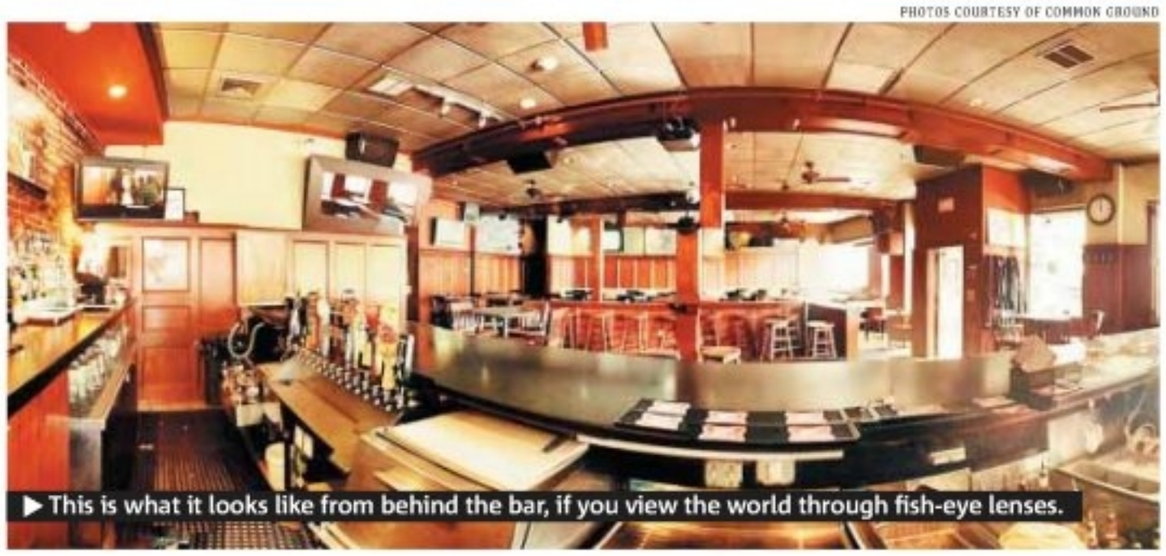

▶ This is what it looks like from behind the bar, if you view the world through fish-eye lenses.

Low-key atmosphere, fun trivia nights and reasonable prices: Those have not changed at Allston's Common Ground. An interior revamp a year or so ago left the place looking smarter and ready for new owner Bob O'Guin. As a former GM for nearby Privus and The Kells, O'Guin knows the Allston scene well. He's clearly aware that expectations in drinking and dining have shifted beyond cheap cheer, too: Common Ground is now a place to plan to go to eat, not just drink. Though do that, too: microbrews (Clown Shoes, Arrogant Bastard) and cocktails are joined by low-priced, decent wines ($19-$35), including an organic Californian Cabernet Sauvignon. Yes, organic.

The menu still reads casual, but under chef Marco Suarez (The Fireplace, Casablanca) much is made in-house, from a fabulous, light feta and eggplant dip to creamy strawberry ice cream. That, and small details like chunks of crisped bacon that top the deviled eggs (creating the perfect bar nibble), make huge differences.

The fish and chips have that wonderful fresh cod smell, the pressed portabella and mozzarella sandwich is luscious, and the golden beet and feta salad has a maple vinaigrette that doesn't drown the fresh leaves.

With Common Ground's familiar windows thrown open wide, merging bar with street life, or sitting on the rear patio, summer nights in Allston just got tastier.

If you go

Common Ground Bar & Grill
85 Harvard Ave., Allston
617-783-2071
www.commongroundallston.com

▶ It would be a rare sight to have so few people at the Common Ground.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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LAUREN DUKOFF

▶ Their passion lies in the bizarre: Dengue Fever play a co-headlining show with Omar Souleyman, which comes to The Paradise next month.

Catch the Fever

Dengue Fever don't think what is offputting about them is their album title or their name, inspired by a disease you get from mosquitoes

'When you're playing psychedelic Cambodian pop mixed with jazz, African music and surf, then you're not exactly going to go Top 40'

Thinking outside the box risks being marginalized as a novelty, but it's worked well for Dengue Fever. This Los Angeles-based sextet, which is named for a nasty tropical disease and reruns 1960s Cambodian psychedelic pop back to its American source (an odd musical idea if ever there was one), has built a worldwide following. The band's fourth and latest record, "Cannibal Courtship," doesn't seem titled to propel them further into the mainstream though.

"Wasn't there a big pop hit by a band called Fine Young Cannibals?" asks bassist Senon Williams. "What keeps us out of the pop charts is that we are playing challenging music, not the name of the band or title of our records. When you're playing psychedelic Cambodian pop mixed with jazz, African music and surf, then you're not exactly going to go Top 40."

Working out the Kinks

Among Dengue Fever's many fans is Kinks frontman Ray Davies, whom they met when they performed on British TV show "Later... with Jools Holland" a couple of years ago.

"We saw him after the show and chatted a little bit. A few months later he called us up asking us to be his backing band. Unfortunately, we had commitments."

Imagine playing "Waterloo Sunset" with its co-author.

"Oh, I love that song," exclaims Williams. "It was a shame, but he thought of us later and asked us to play at his Meltdown Festival. So it was OK."

This leg of the band's tour is a co-headliner with Syrian artist Omar Souleyman, forming an even more eclectic world music bill. Dengue Fever feel comfortable playing with indie rock, world folk or whatever, because, says Williams, it isn't musical style that matters, it's artistic commitment.

"It's definitely a labor of love what we've done," Williams says. "You've got to stick to what you love. Even pop music that I think is really good is done by someone with passion. Our passion just lies more in the bizarre."

Dengue Fever
with Omar Souleyman
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▶ **An Evening with The Avett Brothers**
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▶ **Journey**
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Providence, RI
(On sale Friday)

Also onstage

Matt Haimovitz

Tonight, 7
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston
$12-$27, 617-278-5156
www.gardnermuseum.org
This highly individual and creative cellist embraces popular and classical idioms with equal aplomb, drawing as much inspiration from composers like Bach, who's the main inspiration for his program at this show, as he does from such rockers as Jimi Hendrix. It seems strange, but we already can think of one thing all three men have in common: Awesome hair.

STEPHANIE MACKINNON

▶ Haimovitz rocks the Bach tunes (and hair).

Open Source

Tonight, 7
Space with a Soul
281 Summer St., Boston
$5-$10, 617-585-1118
www.necmusic.edu
Open source, the creative policy of allowing anyone to freely contribute to or build off your own work, was originally conceived for software, but it's since found wide-ranging uses, sometimes with controversial results (for example, Wikipedia's open source scholarship). This sonically diverse concert of new works by New England Conservatory students explores the heady implications of open source for music. **MATTHEW DINARO**

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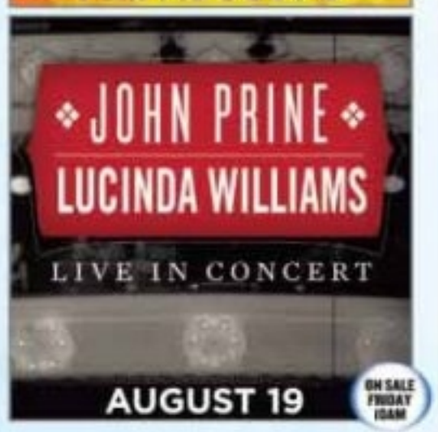

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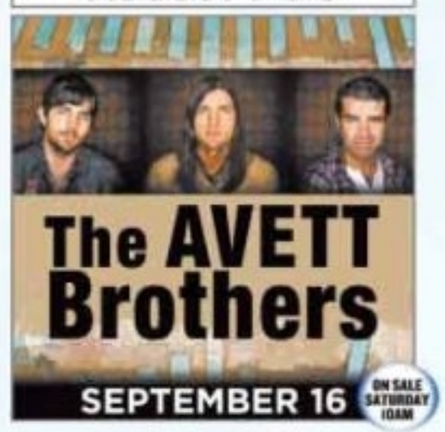
AUGUST 20



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Strange Boys are afoot in Boston

Singer for Texas band on how they get their crowds moving and why critics constantly compare him to Petty

Every time you read about a band sounding like another band, chances are that the so-called derivative band doesn't even listen to the act to which they're being compared. Such is the case with the Austin, Texas-based garage revivalists, The Strange Boys, whose singer Ryan Sambol has ceaselessly been compared to Tom Petty.

"We've never really listened to him," says Sambol. "Maybe it's a Dylan thing. Both Tom and I trying a Bob job."

Sambol's demeanor is one of quiet confidence and charm, but when it comes to playing live, he and his bandmates, which include his brother Phil on bass, Greg Enlow on guitar and Mike La Franchi on drums, tear it up.

BEKAH COPE

Their latest album is called "Live Music," which is not to say it was recorded in concert, but that it rhymes with "give music," an appropriate code for the band and the exchange they have with their audience.

"If we're playing well and looking like we're having fun people usually loosen up and start to move around," says Sambol. Crowds groove a lot at Strange Boys shows; certainly more than at typical indie rock shows. Sambol says of the cities they've played, "Madrid dances, Paris moves — Fort Wayne, Indiana gets way down."

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TRAVEL

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Why? Portland piles up accolades like "coolest small city" and "foodiest town in America." It's pretty, it's walkable, it's full of chef-owned restaurants and interesting galleries, and it's got spectacular views.

★★★★★
Portland Performing Arts Festival
June 28 – July 1
Portland, Maine
portlandfestival.org

But what inspired our recommendation? The new arts festival.

Eight impressively good performances in four days, plus a list of fringe events, means there's something for everyone. Classical music and jazz, dance, theater, and performance art are in the main venues, and music, film, puppetry, and experimental theater form the fringe.

The festival program would be taken seriously in any cultural capitol, AND it looks like a lot of fun.

A two-hour drive from Boston, or an easy ride on Amtrak's Downeaster, Portland's new arts festival is a great reason for you to start making plans now. Go!

Guitarist Sharon Isbin is on the festival bill

What's Playing?

- Pilobolus choreographer Alison Chase's new company in a world premiere performance
- Classical guitarist Sharon Isbin in solo recital including works written especially for her
- Jazz master Doug Wamble and his band performing a rare masterwork based on Faulkner's writings
- Physical theater company Celebration Barn premiere a new play
- Performance-art duo EepyBird (better known as the Coke & Mentos guys) in a live spectacular based on their famous viral video

C's wax Sixers in Philly

Celtics take 2-1 series lead in semifinal series with Sixers ◗ Pierce gets to rim early and often, knee looks healthier ◗ Defense suffocates Philly ◗ Garnett continues to dominate

Three things we saw last night in Philadelphia:

1 Veteran play. Kevin Garnett (27 points, 13 rebounds) and Paul Pierce (24 points, 12 rebounds) carried the Celtics to a 107-91 victory over the Sixers for a 2-1 series lead. Garnett was active from the opening tip and consistently drained the open jumper. Despite a sprained MCL in his left knee, Pierce was stellar throughout and kept attacking the rim. He finished 11-for-14 from the free throw line, which was a great sign for the Celtics considering he had looked ragged earlier in the series.

2 The general. Point guard Rajon Rondo (23 points, 14 assists) controlled the tempo and did a great job of finding open shots for his teammates. Rondo clearly outplayed Philadelphia's Jrue Holiday on this night as he never forced anything, and everything came in the flow of the action. That's what great point guards do in the playoffs and Rondo had his most efficient game so far in the postseason.

107
CELTICS

91
76ERS

3 Swagger is back. As the lead swelled in the second half, the Celtics kept playing hard. The bench was up and cheering and Garnett's emotion was evident. Taking back home-court advantage has to be huge, even for a veteran team such as this. You could see Boston's confidence grow with each run it made on a young Sixers team that didn't know how to counter.

ANDY JASNER
sports@metro.us

JESSE D. GARRABRANT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Paul Pierce attacked the rim all night long last night in Philly.

3

In the news

Tired LeBron
League MVP LeBron James not only took heat for missing two key free throw's in Miami's loss to Indiana Tuesday night, but he's now catching flack for speaking about how draining his role on the team is now that Chris Bosh is on the shelf.

"It's a lot more taxing being in there with the bigger guys," James said to the Miami Herald.

Sports in brief

▶ McNamee

Brian McNamee stands firm

Roger Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, painted former trainer Brian McNamee as a liar yesterday in court in the perjury trial of former Red Sox pitcher.

"Do you just make stuff up," the defense asked.

"I didn't make it up," McNamee said without hesitation.

The Associated Press reported that McNamee "sometimes seemed perplexed by simple yes or no questions and stumbled through an answer about his birthday."

Rivers on competition committee

Celtics head coach Doc Rivers was named to a new NBA competition committee along with Dallas head coach Rick Carlisle and Memphis head coach Lionel Hollins.

The group was previously made up of all NBA general managers.

"The board decided that the inclusion of owners and head coaches on the competition committee would add valuable perspectives to discussions about our game and how it might be improved," NBA executive Joel Litvin said. METRO

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Felix Doubront powering Sox through

Gets start tonight against Matt Moore, Rays Record of 3-1 this season in seven starts Avoids Rivera-like injury, good to go Fastball and cutter working well for Venezuelan lefty Racking up strikeouts early on

In a season in which little has seemingly gone right for the Red Sox, a huge break befell them before yesterday's game at Fenway Park. Felix Doubront, the Red Sox's young left-handed starter, had a Mo Rivera-esque incident in the outfield during batting practice, taking a batted ball off the side of his head. In a year already marred by injuries to key players, however, Doubront escaped serious damage.

"Whenever anybody comes off the field, you hold your breath, but he tested fine," manager Bobby Valentine said.

JIM BOCASH/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Doubront

Where Doubront has been going lately is up, in the minds of fans, teammates and his manager. The 24-year-old lefty, who starts tonight against the Rays at Tropicana Field, is 3-1 with 4.46 ERA in his first season as a regular in the starting rotation.

Doubront had his best start of the season his last time out on Saturday, holding the Indians to one run on three hits over six innings in a 4-1 victory over Cleveland.

"I'm going to learn from every start," Doubront said after the game. "I'm learning. I'm getting better. I just need to throw more and that's it. I'm going to get better every day, every start, and I'm just waiting for that moment to go deeper into the game."

Doubront emerged in spring training as a viable starting candidate and has shown improvement over the course of his first full season. After allowing five runs over four innings against the A's on May 1, Doubront has allowed four runs over 12 innings of his past two outings, both victories. He has 37 strikeouts in 38 1/3 innings.

With Daisuke Matsuzaka soon to make his return from Tommy John surgery, the Red Sox will be faced with a decision in the rotation, and Doubront could find himself the odd man out. But if he continues to pitch well — and avoid batting practice pratfalls — he will make the decision very difficult for Red Sox brass.

Quoted

"You can't teach his demeanor, the way he just goes out there and doesn't get amped up. He just goes after you, and that's something you can't teach and he's awesome at it."
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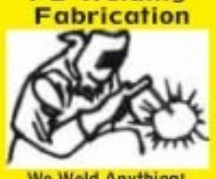

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